

**Amendments to the Drawings:**

The attached replacement drawing sheets make changes to Figs. 1 and 9 and replace the original sheets with Figs. 1 and 9.

Attachment: Replacement Sheets

**REMARKS**

Claims 1, 2, 4, 5 and 7 are pending in this application.

By this Amendment, independent claim 1 is amended to incorporate the subject matter of claims 3 and 6, and to recite additional features disclosed in the specification at, for example, col. 37 of the publication of the present application. Claims 3 and 6 are canceled and claims 4, 5 and 7 are amended in view of the amendments to claim 1 and the cancellation of claims 3 and 6.

Fig. 1 is amended to add "northeast" and "southwest," as described in the originally filed specification at, for example, page 6, second paragraph. (See also col. 34 of the publication of the present application.) Fig. 9 is amended to correct a typographical error. In particular, Fig. 9 is amended to change "A B" at the second row and the second column to "A E." No new matter is added.

Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.

The Office Action objects to the drawings and the specification. The Office Action also rejects claim 2 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. Fig. 1 is amended to be consistent with the corresponding description in the specification. As such, the subject matter recited in claim 2 is shown in Fig. 1. Accordingly, withdrawal of the objections to the drawings and the specification, as well as the rejection of claim 2 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, is respectfully requested.

The Office Action rejects claims 1, 2 and 5-7 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0063070 to Kang in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,541,715 to Swanson; and rejects claims 3 and 4 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Kang in view of Swanson and further in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0045463 to Chen. These rejections are respectively traversed.

Independent claim 1 is amended to recite additional features, as outlined above. For example, claim 1 is amended to recite "a second input means having second character-input keys provided for entering alphabets expressing Japanese vowels, said second characters-input keys being arranged in a region different from a region where said first character-input keys are arranged." Kang, Swanson and Chen do not disclose or suggest such a second input means. Therefore, they do not disclose the subject matter recited in claim 1.

Also, with the second input means, the configuration recited in claim 1 makes the input process of Japanese language more efficient. Without such a second means, the configurations disclosed in Kang, Swanson and Chen do not have such a critical efficiency. Thus, in Kang, Swanson and Chen, it is complicated to input Japanese language. Kang, Swanson and Chen do not recognize the critical advantage of the configuration recited in claim 1. Thus, Kang, Swanson and Chen do not even suggest the subject matter recited in claim 1.

Claims 2, 4, 5 and 7 are each patentable at least in view of the patentability of claim 1, from which they depend, as well as for the additional features they recite.

Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1, 2, 4, 5 and 7 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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JAO:GL/mef

Attachment:  
Replacement Sheets

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